TIME 28 April 1941 page 49

SCIENCE

Jungle Book

"A jungle, like a body, is a complex organism constructed of many parts which interact, which can be grouped and are yet dependent upon one another just as the skeleton, the nervous system, the blood . . . and other systems are in an animal. A bit of jungle breathes and grows and reproduces itself like a great animal." This is the thesis of Ivan T. Sanderson's new book, *Living Treasure* (Viking; $3.50). Sanderson, a British zoologist who put- about the tropics studying small ani- writes this, his fourth book, with an of cheery tea-time banter which yet wells of good, scientific formaldehyde. It ranks him with such literate naturalists as Henry Walter Bates (*The Naturalist on the Amazon*), Thomas Belt (*Naturalist in Nicaragua*), William Beebe (*Jungle Peace*).

In *Living Treasure* Sanderson describes his little lizards and mice, not only with words but with his own drawings, which are artistic works of science. His interest in ecology—the study of the relation, always complex, between each animal and its environment—makes his book not merely a description of loathly and lovely beastlings from Jamaica and Yucatan but a picture of a darker and grander organism of which they are parts.

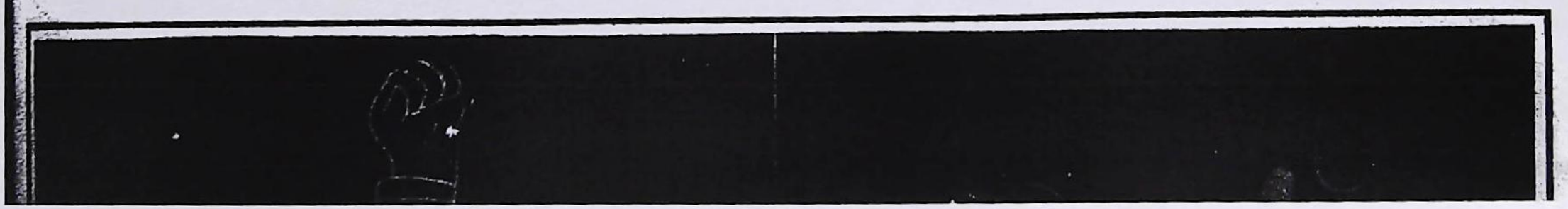
He shows how each tangled acre of jungle can be dissected into hundreds of distinct "niches," which vary—from tree-top to root, from tree to tree—in temperature, humidity, vegetation, sunlight. Every niche has its animals, every animal its niche. Thus, for example, "If you know the distribution of either the forest, the malaria, or the mosquito alone, you will be able to predict the range and incidence of the other two. In fact, this applies . . . to any animals, plants, diseases, and so forth. . . ."

"There is," Sanderson also observes, "a vague but universal presumption that wild animals in their natural environment do not suffer from diseases such as afflict ourselves and our domestic animals." Dissecting warm specimens in the jungle, instead of pickled specimens in a laboratory, he found a startling incidence of internal parasites, anatomical abnormalities (*e.g.*, a rat with one lung), tumors, deficiency diseases, etc. He believes that it would be useful for science to undertake a wider study of the diseases of truly wild animals in order to learn the control of disease in our own world. His book shows that patient naturalists can still find under leaves and stones a tropical American world as strange and dark as that which in the 19th Century pioneers like Bates and Belt found on a grander scale.

U. S. Germ v. Jap Beetle

For 25 years the U.S. has tried many a purely defensive measure against Japanese beetles, but last week its first large-scale offensive with hope of success was under way. The offensive was made possible by a newly developed weapon, the *Bacillus popillae*, which kills grubs under the soil before they turn into the brown-winged green beetles which every summer ravage the Atlantic seaboard from Chesapeake Bay to Long Island Sound.

The Japanese beetle probably came from Japan on a shipment of ornamental shrubs. It was discovered in the U.S. in 1916 near Riverton, N.J. Like concentric ripples in a pool, the beetles spread year by year to surrounding territory. Since quantities of U.S. nursery stock are grown in the most beetled area of New Jersey, the insects would soon have infested the whole U.S. but for a firm Federal quarantine. Each year on the eastern seaboard the beetles now devour millions of dollars' worth of foliage, fruits, flowers, vegetables. They spend over three-fourths of their



12 April 1941 New Yorker
page 70 vol XVII #9

BOOKS

News from Jamaica, Central America, and the English Front

IT is the manner, even more than the matter, of Ivan T. Sanderson's books that makes them about the best jobs in their line since William Beebe. It's a cinch to make fun of the field naturalist, with his passionate absorption in all sorts of nasty little animals that most of us would cut dead. Mr. Sanderson knows this. He is aware that to the besotted layman he is a slightly absurd creature, and he has the humor to make capital of the fact. His attitude is simple: "I find it necessary to state in plain language that (a) we take our work very seriously, but that (b) we do not take ourselves at all seriously." This good-humored self-depreciation and his consciousness of the ridiculous figures he and his assistants often cut give his books an anti-pompous and delightful tone.

"Living Treasure," though not quite up to the author's "Animal Treasure" or "Caribbean Treasure," will be gobbled down by anyone who, like myself, has acquired the Sanderson habit. Sanderson and his wife and a small company of assistants spent about a year observing and collecting animals (their specialty is small mammals) in Jamaica, British Honduras, and Yucatán. There was also a side expedition to Haiti, where a member of their party, with the unexpected help of a Port-au-Prince taxi-driver, bagged a specimen of the rare and almost unapproachable Haitian wild horse. Jamaica presented a shameful condition of affairs; in fact, says the sniffy Sanderson, the mammalian fauna of the West Indies in general is "meagre and remarkably patchy." Nevertheless, the Sandersons did a thriving business with bats ("Asking us whether we are interested in bats is equivalent to asking a child if it likes sweets") and with a rare tick (the *Spharorhynchus*, if you insist on knowing) that lives a dull life in the left ear of certain highly tolerant bats. In a misty Jamaican forest they also encountered, with joyful shouts, earthworms that harbored other earthworms—earthworms to the second power, as Sanderson says.

British Honduras kept the Sandersons fruitfully engaged in such earnest activities as shooting owls in the hope (forlorn, alas) that they might have swallowed rats' skulls whole, observing the communistic, Dies-defying activities of the wee-wee ants, "dissecting" a jungle as you would a flower, being fooled by a frog (*Hyla baudinii*) that specializes in making a noise like a self-starter, looking for tapeworms in a toad's eyeball, and cheering on a three-and-one-half-inch opossum in its epic battle with a three-inch water bug. (The opossum won handily.)

In this book, Mr. Sanderson reveals more about the serious purposes underlying his work, particularly the determination by precise methods of the complex relationship between animal life and its changing environment and the investigation of the diseases of wild animals, who are by no means as healthy as innocent nature-lovers might suppose.

As in his other books, Mr. Sanderson provides his own illustrations, thirty-two drawings that combine exactness of detail with a warm feeling for the vivid life of the subject, whether it be basilisk (*Coryopthanes cristatus*), kinkajou (*Potos flavus*), or Yucatecan skunk (*Spilogale angustifrons yucatanensis*).

ERIC KNIGHT's "This Above All" is the first novel of any pretensions to come out of this war. Mr. Knight, who writes with passionate conviction and a surer skill than in any of his previous work, is not to be blamed for his impatience, and yet one is entitled to wish that he had waited a while. The memorable novels of the last war—they are not many or perhaps even very memorable—appeared in the mid-twenties or later, after the writers had had time to digest their experiences and after enough history had elapsed to allow us to see 1914-18 in something like roughly true perspective. But this war, it may be, has not really started. We cannot see its outlines. What is important today is obscured tomorrow. To some it is a war, to some revolution, to others Armageddon, to still others *Götterdämmerung*. There is a certain rashness even in an attempt to write a full-length novel about a subject whose proportions we cannot yet measure.

With these reservations, there is a good deal to be said for Mr. Knight's story. The central theme revolves around the conversion of Clive Briggs, a slum-produced young Englishman, from defeatism to a realization that this is everybody's war, in which he must do his share. That this conversion is in part brought about by a tediously elaborated love affair with the standard upper-middle-class English girl is one of the book's major weaknesses. In fact, the entire romance between Clive and Prue reminds one forcefully of a great many

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SANDERSON, IVAN TERRANCE. Living treasure; with thirty-two il. by the author. 290p map $3.50 Viking

591.97 Zoology—West Indies. Zoology—Yucatan. Zoology—British Honduras. Animals, Habits and behavior of (W) 41-51755

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Booklist 37:433 My 15 '41

Bookmark 2:6 My '41

"Natural history in the tropics is an inexhaustible source of romance of the quieter sort, and Mr. Sanderson is one of its most gifted exponents. He is a keen observer who writes with an infectious enthusiasm and who also draws uncommonly well. The thirty-two illustrations in this volume are alone worth more than the price of the book. . . A must for nature lovers." W. A. Roberts

+ Books p6 Ap 20 '41 460w

"Especially recommended is the account of the air-conditioned colonies of parasol ants, the only animals apart from man that have developed the practice of agriculture. Unhappily, the author betrays recurrent symptoms of having been infected by the whimsy bug, a widespread pest to which British travelers appear particularly susceptible."

+ — Commonweal 34:165 Je 6 '41 210w

"Beautifully illustrated, witty, and scientifically accurate. . . His play-by-play report of the activities of the Atta ant hill in British Honduras is fascinating reading. This description of the amusing adventures and scientific enthusiasms of Sanderson's party will claim the interest of young people as well as their more sophisticated elders." D. F. Lucas

+ Library J 66:219 Mr 1 '41 120w

"It's an exciting book about snakes, wild horses, crocodiles and dozens of other less conspicuous animals, written with gusto and scientific passion."

+ New Repub 104:737 My 26 '41 50w

"Those who enjoy the informal adventures of naturalists, with just enough of the salt of science to keep them from spoiling, have possibly discovered two previous books by Mr. Sanderson, 'Animal Treasure,' and 'Caribbean Treasure.' The recipe is about the same in this one, except that the author has apparently been told by scientific critics that he has not been scientific enough, and has, therefore, added several pinches more of salt. This book is more serious than the other two. It contains more ideas and not quite so much fun. The reader will learn more, and perhaps think more, about the meaning of wild life in the areas visited." R. L. Duffus

+ N Y Times p1 Ap 20 '41 1200w

"In this book, Mr. Sanderson reveals more about the serious purposes underlying his work, particularly the determination by precise methods of the complex relationship between animal life and its changing environment and the investigation of the diseases of wild ani-

BOO K REVIEW DIGEST
1941

SANDERSON, I. T.—*Continued*

mals, who are by no means as healthy as innocent nature-lovers might suppose. As in his other books, Mr. Sanderson provides his own illustrations, thirty-two drawings that combine exactness of detail with a warm feeling for the vivid life of the subject." Clifton Fadiman

+ New Yorker 17:82 Ap 12 '41 600w

"[The author] seems to feel that he must be at pains to persuade his readers that, while he works in dead earnest, he has, nevertheless, as healthy a scorn for the 'pomposities' of science and exploration as he supposes they must have. So he cuts short his simple and utterly absorbing scientific expositions with self-conscious apologies and frivolous expressions of contempt that are really not necessary at all. . . This is a small reservation, but it is worth mentioning since we may, by now, hope that these books will continue in a long series. About the many drawings of small animals with which Mr. Sanderson has illustrated his narrative there can be no reservations at all. They give the impression of being precisely right, of fitting themselves perfectly to the spirit and content of his text. They reveal, equally with the text, the peculiar keenness and originality, the warmth and humor, that invariably distinguish his observations." L. J. Halle, Jr.

+ — Sat R of Lit 23:15 Ap 26 '41 650w

Springf'd Republican p12 My 22 '41 100w

Wis Lib Bul 37:90 My '41

37th Annual
Co. 1972

SANDERSON, I. T.—*Continued*
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SANDYS, E. V. Beowulf. See Beowulf

SANDYS, E. V. Story of Peer Gynt; retold [adapted from Ibsen's drama] il. by Fritz Eichenberg. 115p $2 Crowell

41-27327

Adaptation of the famous Norse legend of Peer Gynt for young readers. Includes several of Edward Grieg's musical scores from the Peer Gynt suite.

Reviewed by M. L. Becker
Books p6 Ja 18 '42 180w

"What a good story it is!" E. V. Wyatt
+ Cath World 154:374 D '41 140w

"A clever adaptation."
+ Christian Century 58:1381 N 5 '41 10w

"The adaptation is a tactful and conscientious version, but it has nothing of the tenderness, beauty, or quality of the original. Resumés of the story now available are adequate for intelligent listening to Grieg's music; it would seem wise to leave Ibsen's poem with its adult theme for later discovery. Drawings by Fritz Eichenberg and music for five familiar selections are included. Recommended for large collections." J. I. Sauer

+ — Library 66:1049 D 1 '41 100w

SARETT, LEW R. Collected poems; with a foreword by Carl Sandburg. 383p $3 Holt

811 (W) 41-15750

"A collection that represents the work of 30 years. The themes from native and Indian life are filled with a woodsman's familiarity with the outdoors and with Indian lore. A chronology of the poems and explanatory notes on the Indian poems are appended." (Booklist) Indexes.

Booklist 38:49 O 15 '41

"A knowledgeable poet of the woods, this American who has been forest ranger and wilderness guide as well as college professor and platform lecturer. The low of the bull moose and the bleat of fawns 'wedged warm against the bellies of their drowsy does' are the tones from which his tunes evolve. His nature lore countenances no guesswork. . . Many will welcome this collection of the works of Mr. Sarett, whose poems have been appearing in separate volumes from time to time, over a period of years." Pearl Strachan

+ Christian Science Monitor p10 O 18 '41 550w

"It is a testimony to Mr. Sarett's poetry that it achieved the popularity it did during the post-war decades, precisely when 'romantic' poetry of this kind was least in demand because of the interest in hollow men and waste lands. A great deal of the force of his poetry derives from what the Greeks would have called his *ethos*, those attributes of his personal character which are constantly revealed in the qualities of his diction, style, thought, and the like. . . These personal attributes, combined with a high grade of technical excellence and craftsmanship, make The Collected Poems of Lew Sarett a valuable collection of the writings of a brilliant and original contemporary American poet." Leo Shapiro

+ Poetry 59:154 D '41 1300w
Springf'd Republican p6 Ja 22 '42 500w
Wis Lib Bul 37:153 O '41

SARGEAUNT, HENRY ANTHONY, and WELLS, GEOFFREY HARRY (GEOFFREY WEST, pseud). Grand strategy. 246p $2 Crowell

355.01 War. Strategy. Economic policy

41-24419

"Mr. Sargeaunt, a research scientist at Cambridge university and authority on poison gas, is now working on a full length study of grand strategy from ancient to modern times. Mr West is a regular contributor to leading English political and literary periodicals. It is obvious that the present book is merely an outline of the more comprehensive work to follow. . . While the subject is based of necessity on the evolution and development of military strategy it goes far beyond that in scope. Grand strategy deals with the connections between war and the society or civilization in which war occurs." Springf'd Republican

" 'Grand Strategy' is an undauntedly speculative book and it raises as many questions as it answers. But its underlying ideas are impressive and in particular it gives expression convincingly to a concept of war that, if it is absorbed, may have a decisive bearing on the future." H. N. Doughty, Jr.
Books p3 Ja 25 '42 1400w

"It will be seen that the theme of 'Grand Strategy' is a vital one. It may happen that one may completely reject a technique of social analysis utilized by an author, and may also believe that the author has made poor use of it, and yet recognize the value of a book. . . The reviewer, having adopted the viewpoint of the authors, and having profited greatly, confesses that he has found unsatisfactory their treatment of a rich theme. Nowhere is this inadequacy more striking than in the final chapters. Here one has a right to expect the authors to sum up with clarity, decision and usefulness. They do not, though their general argument is sound and liberal. Nevertheless, their book has the merit of leading the average reader to bolder conclusions." Ralph Bates

+ — New Repub 105:865 D 22 '41 1350w
Springf'd Republican p7e D 14 '41 1000w

SARGENT, DANIEL. All the day long: James Anthony Walsh, cofounder of Maryknoll. 259p il $2.50 Longmans

B or 92 Walsh, James Anthony, bp.

41-26029

Biography of this Roman Catholic priest and bishop, who was co-founder of Maryknoll, the institution which trains Catholic missioners for work in the Far East.

37 Annual Co. 1972

"Kim San's story is a good one, except for the windy passages in which he airs his philosophy and which Miss Wales might well have deleted. I doubt if he will stir much sympathy in the bosom of the average American reader. Most indeed will vote him a daft, conceited, murderous little prig. But his story will probably serve the useful purpose of informing many that the little publicized Corean revolution, with 800,000 sturdy pioneers in Manchuria and Siberia behind it, is very much alive and is a problem that Japan will have to reckon with if she undertakes another expedition into Siberia over Corean and Manchurian lines of communication." Rodney Gilbert

Books p4 N 16 '41 1450w

"Absorbing personal story."

+ N Y Times p9 N 30 '41 480w

"Kim San's biography is a unique human document. It is much more than a mere record of events, although he has crowded the experiences of several life-times into the space of three decades. It is also a revealing account, often painfully intimate, of the mental processes and heart-searchings of a Korean patriot, revolutionary, and exile." T. A. Bisson

+ Sat R of Lit 24:14 N 1 '41 450w

SANBORN, RUTH BURR. These are my people. 306p $2.50 Crowell

41-23969

A young Southern physician, Dr Wingfield Chevron, torn between the wealthy patients his fiancée brought him, and the sturdy back country people, who really loved him, is the chief character. A fatal accident, an inquest, and Dr Wing learned his real friends and his ultimate goal.

"Miss Sanborn, who now lives in North Carolina, writes appealingly of countrypeople whose traditions stem directly from the early English settlers and generations of independent pioneers. The setting gives freshness to a story whose end is foreordained from the beginning. And, though on sober afterthought it seems unfair to have the virtues and the vices allocated so unerringly to the countrypeople and the townspeople, respectively, one likes Heather McQuarren and her clan so much the better that the story moves smoothly and pleasantly along to their victory." Mary Ross

+ — Books p10 O 12 '41 440w

Christian Century 58:1243 O 8 '41 20w

"Good novel for the average reader who needs to be entertained. Excellent description, characters well drawn, and story absorbing. . . Recommended." S. E. Sherman

+ Library J 66:731 S 1 '41 70w

" 'These Are My People,' without cutting very far below the surface at any point, is sleekly finished and readable. Miss Sanborn is a practiced writer of magazine fiction and she has spared none of her highly polished arts—from a photographic eye for domestic interiors to a deft mastery of light dialogue—to make her first novel a pleasant and ornamental job." Margaret Wallace

+ N Y Times p18 O 12 '41 650w

Springf'd Republican p7e N 23 '41 170w

Wis Lib Bul 37:178 N '41

SANCHEZ, GEORGE ISIDORE. Forgotten people; a study of New Mexicans. 98p il $2 Univ. of N. Mex. press

978.9 Spaniards in New Mexico. Taos county, New Mexico 40-28636

"After the first Spanish settlers of New Mexico were killed or driven out by the Pueblo Rebellion of 1680, the Indians of the country had it to themselves for thirteen years. Then came the reconquest by De Vargas, and the establishment of settlements which still exist. And now there are three groups of people in New Mexico: the Indians; the descendants of the original Spanish settlers and later immigrants from Mexico; the English-speaking Americans, sometimes called 'Anglos.'. . There are 270,000 of these descendants of the Spanish settlers in New Mexico today, and their lot is hard. . . . Dr. Sanchez's study concentrates on Taos County. . . During the past few years various state and federal agencies have done much to help the New Mexican solve his land and educational problems. But much more needs to be done." Survey

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Booklist 37:239 F 1 '41

Reviewed by Alden Stevens

Survey 77:341 N '41 450w

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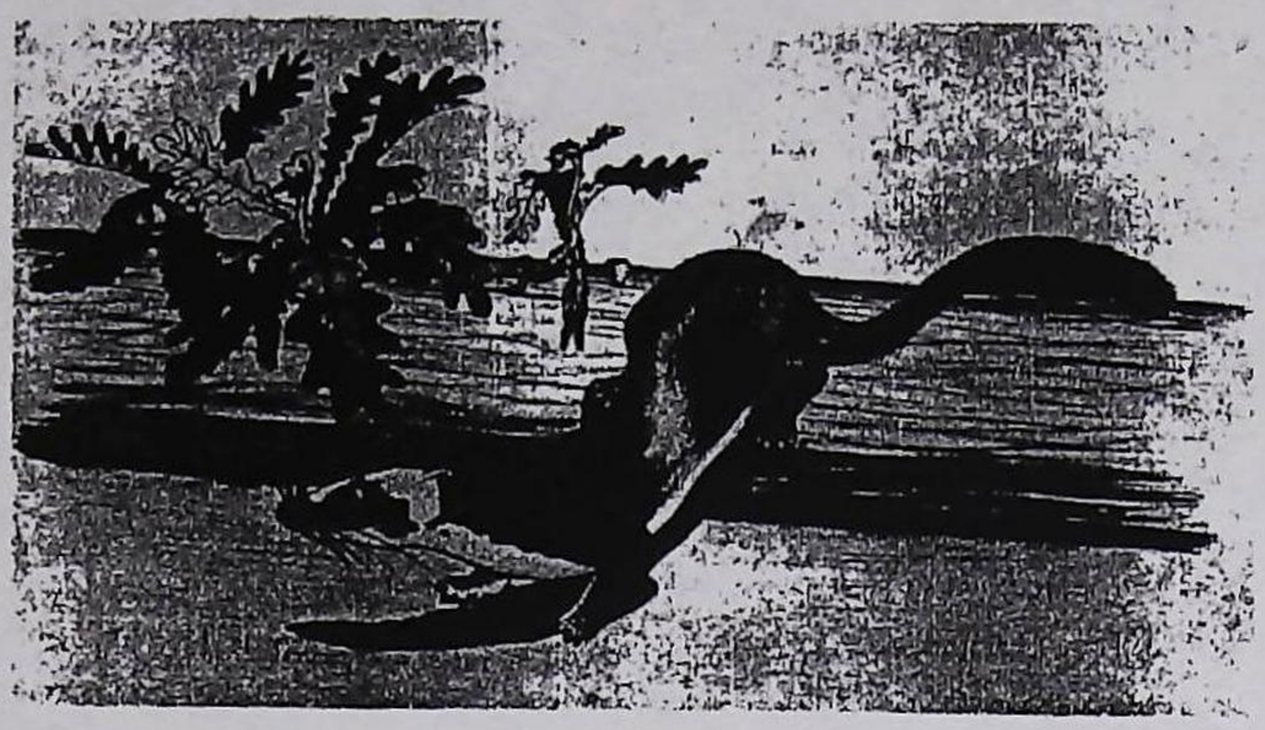
Section 6



Yucatan Weasel.

The Illustrations Are From Drawings by the Author for "Living Treasure."

The Adventures of A Naturalist

Mr. Sanderson's New Book, If More Serious, Has the Fascination of Its Predecessors

LIVING TREASURE. By Ivan T. Sanderson. With thirty-two illustrations by the author. 290 pp. New York: The Viking Press. $3.50.

By R. L. DUFFUS

THOSE who enjoy the informal adventures of naturalists, with just enough of the salt of science to keep them from spoiling, have possibly discovered two previous books by Mr. Sanderson, "Animal Treasure," and "Caribbean Treasure." The recipe is about the same in this one, except that the author has apparently been told by scientific critics that he has not been scientific enough, and has, therefore, added several pinches more of salt. This book is more serious than the other two. It contains more ideas and not quite so much fun. The reader will learn more, and perhaps think more, about the meaning of wild life in the areas visited—in this case Haiti, Jamaica, British Honduras and Yucatan.

Mr. Sanderson is so modest in his introduction that he almost talks himself out of the notion of doing a book at all. He does not set up to be an explorer, an adventurer or a professional traveler. He simply goes, like a business man, to his office, which may be a jungle, but to its creatures and inhabitants is home. He and Mrs. Sanderson "cannot see what is odd about that."

Odd things do happen. At least they seem odd to those of us who stay in New York and at this glad season of the year are bitten by the micro-organisms which produce the common cold. Mr. Sanderson goes gayly into what would strike us as places to stay out of. He climbs a ninety-foot tree to get something that has gone into a hole. He does this by means of creepers, which he hopes will not give way. Then the tree catches fire from coals which have been put at the bottom to smoke the creature out.

He goes walking in the Honduran jungle at night and catches sight of "a flat, evil head with a pair of obliquely set eyes" staring from a hole in a rotten buttress. Of course, he wants to add the owner of this head to his collection, though it may be, and indeed turns out to be, a very poisonous snake known as the Fer-de-lance, or, locally, as the Yellow-Jawed Tommy-Goff. "It began," he says, "to pour through the slot toward us." Fred, who had cut his thumb, got hold of the reptile by the neck. It just happened that none of the venom it was exuding got into the cut.

Yet these episodes are exceptional. Mr. Sanderson is not having adventures, or at least no more adventures than a small man might have in riding from Times Square to the Grand Central Station with his feet off the car floor and his breathing shut off by the gay homeward-bound crowd. He does have a humor he cannot always control and which probably damages him with the more sedate zoölogists. He points out convincingly to George that tortoises do not climb trees and that George ought not to say he had found one in a tree. But there is one in a tree, eighteen feet above the ground. He encounters a pair of tapirs. "For a few seconds," he states, "we all stopped and stared at one another, twitching our respective long noses in the inquiring manner of all startled mammals." He regards the countenance of a Honduran gopher as "beyond all hope." Of course, this is not the case and is a pure human prejudice. A Honduran gopher must look extremely winsome to another Honduran gopher of the opposite sex.

One picks these instances out, sometimes wishing that Mr. Sanderson wouldn't giggle. What remains and is not so readily described in a brief commentary is an honest interest in what goes on in wet and dry jungles, at various altitudes in the jungle, in caves, under logs and among the ruins of "dead houses." Mr. and Mrs. Sanderson and their assistants took a piece of jungle to pieces, plant by plant, shrub by shrub, tree by tree, collecting whatever moved in it. They were honestly concerned about the remarkable phenomena of pigmentation in lizards. The theory of the "environmental niche" is not new, but Mr. Sanderson explains and illustrates it admirably. "It appears," he says, "that all these niches are filled with animals and that each animal differs slightly in order to fit its own niche." The older systematic zoölogy was a structure of units related but separate. Mr. Sanderson gives us very clearly, without too much speculating, the newer conception of all life as a flowing stream, a rising and falling tide, similar in its intrinsic nature, shaped by its immediate "climate."

Fred, on the evidence of travel books, had supposed jungles "to be a more or less solid mass of animals, interspaced with trees." This is not the case. Mr. Sanderson estimated that his party spent about three thousand hours a year searching, yet "would not like to state that we actually saw as many as two hundred live mammals in all that time." But birds, beasts and insects (of the latter there are always plenty) are found where they fit in. Mr. Sanderson proved that by studying a new specimen brought in by a forest ranger he could accurately describe the surroundings and local "climate" in which it was living. Or if the living conditions were known he thought it might be "feasible to predict the animal's appearance." In the cases of two members of the rat family, living respectively in holes in banks and in low trees, Mr. Sanderson actually did work out a description before he caught the animals. It was a bit like deducing a man's physical characteristics from a study of his house or his clothing.

The layman can understand the enthusiasm of Mr. Sanderson and his companions for the wild horse of Haiti. It is not so easy to grasp the charm of the parasitic (or possibly epiphytic) flatworms which move "like transparent ghosts" around the earthworms on which they reside. Or of "a revolting hairy beast without a noticeable head," found as a parasite in the ears of certain bats and important to science because it holds "a position as yet ill-defined but somewhere between the ticks and the mites." Yet there are problems of great interest here, and Mr. Sanderson lets us in on them. He does this not only by his text but by illustrations which are beautifully done, regardless of whether they do or do not faithfully represent the objects seen.

What Mr. Sanderson has contributed to science is, no doubt, a number of specimens, some of them rare or not collected before, together with observations on their behavior in their environment and their relationship to it. His generalizations certainly will not startle a zoölogist. The academic gentry may be able to find inaccuracies. He has, nevertheless, produced another book of great fascination and one which does contain material to stimulate thought.

An Interested Tourist in Brazil

I LIKE BRAZIL. By Jack Harding. With photographs by the author and two sketch maps. 335 pp. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company. $3.

TO the busy advertising man who is Bertita Harding's husband South America has always meant "coffee and beef, tangos and polo teams, heat and ten Good Neighbor republics, which I can't name offhand"; and he confesses that this is a shameful state of ignorance and that he, in company with millions of his countrymen, has been asleep. "Asleep," he explains, "to the limitless opportunities right in our own hemisphere, asleep to the real good neighborliness we should have been building up ever since we became a country." But when he and his wife decided last year that they would have a look at South America, they were not moved by a sense of international duty but by travelers' curiosity and natural zest. Mr Harding's book about Brazil is the report of a tourist who is interested in business relations and social and political friendship. He found Rio harbor an "incomparable spot" which "dazzlingly transcends everything that has been said and written about it," and he had a delightful time in that city. But soon he was off by plane along the northeast coast to take a boat up the Amazon.

And as he has plenty of attention to give to the flat-bottomed Fortaleza, her crew and passengers and the sights of her river voyage, so too he has taken pains to meet business men—Brazilian and foreign—and representative Brazilian notables. And as he laments the poverty whose marks are all-too-apparent among certain country people, he examines also the nation's new labor laws and has illuminating conversations with several national authorities. From one day's record he sets down his capture of a tubful of piranha ("the Amazon's most publicized fish, and one of the most vicious monsters alive") and from another he remembers his visit to the gold mines in that booming, boosting province of Minas Geraes. He goes to the coffee country, of course, and to the region of that "rapidly increasing Brazilian product, cotton." He meets some interesting individual characters, but for the most part he studies the country in more general terms.

Brazil is a friend to the United States, Jack Harding reports, and one to be proud of. But the country's riches may also be a prize for "covetous have-nots." And "the dread Fifth Column exists," undoubtedly. This American business man has his own brisk recipe: "Let's stop prating about Fifth Columnists at work in Brazil, and tie her so closely to our own axis that she won't even be tempted to break away."

But the journey which reaches these conclusions is studded with pleasant and amusing incidents of travel, and this is to be read primarily as a travel book.

Tapirs.

YOUR NEW BOOKS

A HISTORY OF 8 SCIENCES • ADVENTURE AND JEWELS
NEW HANDBOOK OF THE HEAVENS • ROMANTIC ZOOLOGY
FLIGHT OVER AFRICA • LIVING TREASURE • KUKULCAN

THE ANTARCTIC OCEAN

- - - - - - - - - by Russell Owen

Whittlesey House, $3.00

AS the second in a proposed series on the oceans of the world, this book sets a standard which, if followed by the others, will make that series an important contribution to geographical literature. Geographers may hesitate to accept the author's term, "Antarctic Ocean," as there is no body of water so designated; but it is doubtful whether anyone can read this book without agreeing that the author has reason for his choice of title. As he uses it, the term would apply to those portions of the adjacent oceans where antarctic weather and conditions prevail, probably best delineated by the average limits of drift ice.

Writing with his usual clear and interest-sustaining style, Mr. Owen traces the course of human thought and knowledge of those latitudes from the earliest philosophical discussion concerning the nature of the south polar regions, to the work of the latest expeditions. In doing this, he sticks to his objective, a history of all the recorded voyages in antarctic waters, describing briefly, but adequately, the exploration work done on land. In closing this scholarly and entertaining volume he shows how ridiculous are the various political claims to various portions of the Antarctic continent.

JUNIUS BIRD.

FOCUS ON AFRICA

- - - - by Richard Upjohn Light

American Geographical Society, $5.00

TRAVEL tales from the tropics dwell all too often on physical discomforts, or they rhapsodize on the supposedly limitless resources of the lands traversed. Doctor Light's magnificent volume, on the contrary, presents an expert survey of a vast segment of Africa by a surgeon who is also an aviator and an accomplished geographer. The illustrations consist of 324 photographs, all but 85 of them from the air, and mostly taken by the author's wife, Mary Light, who went along as copilot, photographer and radio operator.

The Lights' air journey of ten weeks took them from the Cape to Cairo and on to Tunis. After zigzagging northward to Lake Nyasa and Zanzibar, they circled over the highest snowy peaks of eastern Africa, and then followed the Nile to the shores of the Mediterranean. Three days on the ground were devoted to the lions of the Serengeti. Their six-place Bellanca monoplane was equipped with every necessary instrument, and operated with rare skill.

Doctor Light's text is far more than a narrative of the flight. It includes most valuable discussions of the geology, history, populations, and economics of the countries along the way. Grass-burning, overgrazing, and soil erosion are serious problems in Africa, as are water supply and tsetse fly control.

The book is divided into nine chapters, mainly on geographic lines, each with its maps and photographs. To me the most exciting views are those of the summits of Kilimanjaro, Mount Kenya, and Ruwenzori. If you prefer animals there are pictures of elephants, lions, antelopes, and other game. Large urban centers, mines, rivers, farm lands, and native villages are all featured.

After Egypt, photography was forbidden for military reasons, and in Corsica the Lights' plane was so badly damaged by a storm that flying had to be abandoned. The closing chapter is on aviation in Africa, and then follows a copious Bibliography. For a vast panorama of eastern Africa throughout its entire length, sharply focussed with pen and camera, one could ask nothing better.

JAMES P. CHAPIN.

LIVING TREASURE

- - - - - - - by Ivan T. Sanderson

Viking, $3.50

THIS volume makes the third of what might be called the "Treasure" series, the other two being *Animal Treasure* and *Caribbean Treasure*. They are all written after the same pattern, and are well-phrased accounts of field studies dealing with a wide range of fauna and flora and spiced with graphic accounts of narrow escapes.

Animal Treasure, the first to appear, gained the author not only a host of readers and some very enthusiastic reviews, but also some severe criticism from experienced field naturalists who believed that the factual structure was unequal to the strain imposed by the heavy demands of journalism. To state the case briefly, no story lost anything in the telling.

In the present book Sanderson is telling of experiences in Jamaica, British Honduras and Yucatan. He finds many interesting creatures, he goes about his work in the field in a methodical manner, and he explores and develops hypotheses for the correlation of fauna and environment. He expounds an ability to predict the appearance of an animal, having seen its environment, or to describe the environment upon looking at an animal brought in by a native. This faculty can be trusted within limits and most naturalists soon observe enough to have the basis for it. It seems to this reviewer, however, that much more refinement is claimed in the Sanderson analysis than can be proved by the very examples he gives.

Sanderson and his associates work at a high tempo, they are enthusiastic, they believe in their mission. In the Introduction the author states that while they take their work seriously they do not take themselves seriously; and this probably is the reason for the rather surprising contrast between the highly journalistic accounts of personal hazards and the serious philosophic passages. The intention to reduce pomposity is commendable but the alternative has its pitfalls as well.

H. E. ANTHONY.

NEW HANDBOOK OF THE HEAVENS

by Hubert J. Bernhard, Dorothy A. Bennett and Hugh S. Rice

Whittlesey House, $2.50

THIS *New Handbook* is an entirely rewritten version of the *Handbook of the Heavens*, written by members of the Junior Astronomy Club of the American Museum of Natural History, and published a few years ago. The original book, although intended for the beginner in astronomy, was highly commended by leading professional astronomers throughout the country, and went through seven printings. The new book is twice as large and, although adapted to beginners, it is much more scientific and exact—particular attention being given to lucidity in the text. It has better star charts, in which all of the objects mentioned in the text are incorporated.

Of great interest to the amateur are the extensive observing lists of double stars, clusters, variable stars, and nebulae. These lists contain the most useful information in the most complete detail, that this reviewer has ever seen in a book of this kind. In the case of double stars, for example, the following data are given—name of star, location, magnitude, position angle, distance apart, and colors of components, as well as remarks attracting the attention

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Vol XLVIII #1
Natural History
June 1941

Saturday Review

The Sanderson Sagas

LIVING TREASURE. By Joan T. Sanderson. New York: The Viking Press. 1941. 290 pp., with index. $3.50.

Reviewed by LOUIS J. HALLE, JR.

SANDERSON rides again. The zoological explorer whose loving observations on the small wild life of the tropics have already appeared in two books, "Animal Treasure," and "Caribbean Treasure," now offers more of the same treasure in a volume that is practically identical with its predecessors. His attention is still focussed as intently and exclusively as ever on the wee, sleekit, cowrin, tim'rous beasties that lurk in the tropical wilderness. Birds cannot distract him, human beings loom in his vision either as they contribute to his researches or obstruct them, and even the large beasts excite no more than a passing awe. A captive vulture is notable only as host to a swarm of parasitic flies, as a sort of bush frequented by wild life. A successful day of hunting, in his view, is one that nets him "five lizards . . . two different frogs, a small scorpion, and one tiny, free-living red mite." What is real and wonderful can be held in the hand.

This is, in a sense, a book of travels, so it must perforce be mentioned that the author and his wife, in the course of their present researches, went from Jamaica to British Honduras to Yucatan. But the locale of whatever plot of jungle, savanna, or pine ridge happens to be under observation is really immaterial. Habitat is what counts to the zoological traveler who keeps his eyes on the ground at his feet. In this microcosmic perspective, the immediate "environmental niche" looms larger than the continent on which it occurs, minute ecological relationships count for more than broad geographical distribution. But, so concentrated and vivid is this Sandersonian wonderworld, as it is described in these books, that the reader enters into it immediately and fully, sharing its author's affectionate delight at its minute and often monstrous inhabitants, forgetting that any larger world exists at all. It is hard to believe that a thundering herd of big game could assume more dramatic proportions than, say, the parasol ants whose social activities are chronicled in this volume.

When an author has become established, as Mr. Sanderson now has, it is common to take his virtues for granted and notice faults that, in a new writer of equal caliber, might pass unregarded. The fact is that each of these volumes has been marred, in the presentation, by a sort of personal uneasiness on the author's part, as if

Drawn by the author.

he dreaded that his readers would find him at once too frivolous as a scientist and too solemn as a person. He goes out of his way unnecessarily to justify himself. This fault, which often finds its expression in a sort of boastful diffidence (as in the complacent statement that "we do not take ourselves at all seriously"), becomes irritating and often detracts from the genuineness of a genuine intellectual enthusiasm. He seems to feel that he must be at pains to persuade his readers that, while he works in dead earnest, he has, nevertheless, as healthy a scorn for the "pomposities" of science and exploration as he supposes they must have. So he cuts short his simple and utterly absorbing scientific expositions with self-conscious apologies and frivolous expressions of contempt that are really not necessary at all. Like a man's sobriety, these things are always better taken for granted.

This is a small reservation, but it is worth mentioning since we may, by now, hope that these books will continue in a long series. About the many drawings of small animals with which Mr. Sanderson has illustrated his narrative there can be no reservations at all. They give the impression of being precisely right, of fitting themselves perfectly to the spirit and content of his text. They reveal, equally with the text, the peculiar keenness and originality, the warmth and humor, that invariably distinguish his observations.

Protecting Nature's Treasures

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION. By Ira N. Gabrielson. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1941. 250 *pp.* $3.50.

Reviewed by LOUIS J. HALLE, JR.

ONE of the likeliest causes for the failures of democracy is that the people, upon whom the responsibility of government eventually rests, are unable to grasp the long-range problems that depend on them for solution. We Americans have always been great when it came to dealing with an immediate and obvious emergency. But, as Dr. Gabrielson points out, the battle of conservation cannot be won in "a short, sharp engagement"; it "must be grim, tenacious warfare," extended in time and looking forward to generations beyond our own. Otherwise our children shall inherit in place of the rich continent that was ours, a great American desert.

For the people to deal adequately with a problem of such farflung complexity as conservation they must be impressed, by the competent experts, with the reality of that problem and the means available for its solution. No expert is more competent for this purpose than Dr. Ira Gabrielson, who has charge of the federal government's wildlife-conservation program, and it is unlikely that a clearer statement of the problem has appeared than this present volume. It is, therefore, a volume of outstanding importance. Though its emphasis is on the conservation of wildlife, specifically, Dr. Gabrielson repeatedly underlines the fact that "soil, water, forest, and wildlife conservation are only parts of one inseparable program." These organic resources exist in a state of mutual dependence; whatever the future may hold for any of them will be common to all of them. So the first half of this volume is devoted to an exposition of the factors involved in the conservation of our soil, water, forests, and

The New Republic

26 May 1947

page 737

Vol 104 #21

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…Dreiser's soap-box harangue,
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…limit our absolute freedom of action. And his complete emphasis on a political mechanism (a Federal Union of all the world's democracies), with too little regard for the social and economic problems which would confront it, weakens his case enormously. Because in the long run, union (after this war) would be effective in maintaining world peace only to the extent that social and economic dissatisfactions could be eliminated.

But after these and a hundred other objections have been raised, Streit's plan remains the most practical proposal for some kind of international order yet made. He would have the Union (now limited to the United States and the British Commonwealth) offer peace to the Axis on the basis of the pre-Munich status quo, no reparations, no recriminations. He thinks Hitler might accept (unless today's headlines have changed his mind). If not, the Union would be forced to bring this war to a successful conclusion, after which membership would be open to any democratic state. Streit's main point right now is that the plan would be vastly strengthened by immediate adoption. In a sense it would be an answer to those who want a statement of war aims; it would at least offer a framework within which to work out a post-war order. The detailed plan of union elaborated by Streit might have to be altered at a score of points. The dominions might balk, the American people might balk, etc., etc. But there still remains the question, What do you offer in its place? To some it appears that none of the weaknesses of the plan are quite as awful to contemplate as the way things have worked out in the past twenty years. This reviewer is as well aware of the sound objections to the union idea (and some of the more capricious ones, too) as the next fellow. But a lot of those next fellows (some of our bright young realists among them) tell me that Streit is wacky and then go on to say that sure we'll have another war in ten years or so, no matter who wins now. All right, then; I like the kind of padded cell Streit is in.

MAX GISSEN

A Reader's List

FRANCE SPEAKING, by Robert de Saint Jean (Dutton, $2.50). A French journalist's diary, relating logically the decline of France from Munich to Vichy. The much-told story of political corruption, bureaucratic greed and the lack of leadership is given fresh significance through excellent quotations and new, enlightening material about the psychology of French diplomats and deputies.

A HISTORY OF FRENCH COMMERCIAL POLICIES, by Frank Arnold Haight (Macmillan, $2.50). Lucid, comprehensive account of major trends since Colbert, emphasizing developments from the Great War to the current one. Excellent sections on import quotas and on colonial commercial policies. Another volume in Carnegie Endowment's series on Commercial and Tariff History.

LIVING TREASURE, by Ivan T. Sanderson (Viking, $3.50). The author of "Animal Treasure" and "Caribbean Treasure" tells about his adventures in Jamaica, Yucatan, Haiti and the deep jungles of British Honduras. It's an exciting book about snakes, wild horses, crocodiles and dozens of other less conspicuous animals, written with gusto and scientific passion. Illustrated by the author.

THE LUNGFISH AND THE UNICORN, by Willy Ley (Modern Age, $2.75). Zoology with a difference. The low-down on lots of animals you'll never meet in your local zoo, presented here in a chatty, entertaining manner. Read this for the pertinent dope on the geirfugl, the sloth, the dodo and the unicorn.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCIENCES, Second Series, edited by L. L. Woodruff (Yale University Press, $3). Excellent popular essays in the history of science by qualified specialists on the faculty of Yale. Topics include: mathematics, astronomy, physics, chemistry, geology, biology, psychology and medicine. The material is well selected and competently organized, with particular reference to the major figures and leading concepts within each of the sciences discussed.

MAN: THE MECHANICAL MISFIT, by G. H. Estabrooks (Macmillan, $2.50). A professor of Psychology takes a look at Man—and recoils in alarm at the spectacle of his rapid deterioration, biological and sociological. The theme—with confessed acknowledgements to E. A. Hooton—is that *homo sapiens* has more brains than is good for him. The author believes, among other things, that "medicine has done the race great potential damage in controlling the germ disease,"

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